

**Amendments to the Abstract:**

Please replace the original Abstract on page 54 with the following rewritten Abstract:

--A digital image (27) is taken by a digital camera (12) and a serial number (22) is associated with the digital image. The digital image is encrypted by the camera using a camera key (20) to form an encrypted image (28). The encrypted image is then communicated to an authentication center (14). The authentication center associates the encrypted image with the serial number identifying the camera and an encrypted camera key (50). At a later time, a digital image is sent by a verifying entity (16) to the authorization center to determine if the digital image has been altered. The authorization center then decrypts the encrypted image, compares the digital image to the decrypted encrypted image and reports the result to the verifying entity. Also, the digital image is encrypted. ~~The digital image is partitioned into at least one partition. A P box is applied to each partition. A first and second S box are applied to each partition. The encrypted image is generated based the P box, the first S box and the second S box.~~ The authentication center decrypts the digital image. ~~The encrypted digital image is decrypted by determining at least one partition based on the encrypted digital image. At least one trajectory associated with the encrypted image is reconstructed. A reverse S2 box, a reverse S1 box and a reverse P box are applied to the partitions.~~ The original digital image is generated based on the first reverse S box, the second reverse S box and the reverse P box.--